

Flint Water Crisis

Creating Access to Safe Water and Fostering
Community Outreach and Engagement

In April 2014, Flint's water was changed from safe drinking water, sourced from Lake Huron and treated in Detroit, to untreated water from the Flint River.

Flint River



This change caused a series of problems including unsafe drinking water that culminated into other public health concerns.



The corrosive Flint River water, untreated in the aging pipes, caused lead to leach into the water supply, leading to elevated levels of lead and copper.



In October 2015, after great concern and protests by residents, Flint's water source was switched back to Lake Huron water.



Even after the switch back to Lake Huron water, the health issues, emotional harm, and aging infrastructure continued to challenge the response and recovery efforts.

The elevated level of lead in the water in Flint, created a myriad of health and community challenges to an already struggling City.



On January 5, 2016, Governor Rick Snyder declared a state of emergency for Flint, MI.



On January 16, 2016,
President Barack Obama
declared a Federal state
of emergency for Flint,
MI.

The declaration ordered federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts and authorized FEMA emergency assistance for bottled water, water filters, replacement cartridges and water test kits.

All efforts to date have been allowed under each Department's statutory and regulatory authority and have been provided under existing programs.



On March 14, 2016,
HUD Secretary Julian
Castro visited Flint and
met with Mayor Karen
Weaver and
Congressman Dan
Kildee to evaluate how
HUD could aid the
community

HUD responds by assigning one full time staff person to directly assist HUD residents in the Region and collaborate with Federal, State, and local agencies to provide education, outreach, and intervention activities.

HUD goals included:

Ensuring all HUD assisted households had access to clean and safe drinking water.

Identifying HUD funding and additional technical assistance to assist with the water crisis in Flint and long-term recovery

Coordinating and collaborating with other Federal, State, City governmental agencies and other partners to maximize resources and minimize duplication of efforts.

Coordinating education, outreach and intervention activities for HUD-assisted households

Establishing and accomplishing short-term response and longer term recovery goals and objectives

HUD IN ACTION

Planned and coordinated **12** outreach events
collaborating with over **25** partners. Over **500**
residents participated in these events



Events provided updates on the water crisis, blood testing, enrollment in expanded Medicaid services, distribution of filters, replacement cartridges and bottled water, and information on healthy foods



Over **200 residents** received blood lead level testing from mobile blood units.



Outreach events kept
adults immersed in useful
information and the
children occupied with
FUN!



Identified HUD funding to address various issues related to the water crisis resulting in:

Approval of funds for water filters in all public housing, multifamily assisted and housing choice voucher units totaling over 5000 units

Approval of \$20,000 in City of Flint CDBG funds to purchase water filters for delivery and installation in the homes of homebound seniors that assisted approximately 250 households at \$80/household

A MOU for additional technical assistance by a HUD TA provider

Consideration of the City's plan for use of 108 fund and a request for additional CDBG

Developed a water sampling protocol for all HUD multi family and public housing units receiving water from the City of Flint and initiated testing for lead and copper levels. Maintenance staff were trained on the “first draw” sampling procedures and over **1000** units were tested with less than 5% yielding results above the EPA minimum standards.

Collaborated with the State Lead Safe Home Program to host two informational sessions for Housing Choice Voucher Landlords in Flint.

Sixty attendees learned about the responsibilities of owners who lease dwellings, and various programs that offer assistance to property owners in making their homes lead safe.

Collaborated with Michigan Health and Human Services to develop a Data Use Agreement to share information about blood lead levels for HUD-assisted households and to inform outreach activities for blood testing, case management and expanded services.



Coordinated with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to match HUD-assisted household data to the State database for water testing resulting in an ability to track multifamily, public housing and HCV test results and identify areas for additional outreach and intervention.

HUD released a new LEAD-SAFE HEALTHY HOMES TOOLKIT

National Healthy Homes Month 2016 Toolkit



Recommended Activities, Resources
and Social Media Messaging Guide



Issued guidance to PHAs, owners and management agents about “Requirements for addressing lead contaminated water in public housing, project based section 8 housing, multifamily insured housing, and housing choice voucher units located in the City of Flint and Genesee County”.



Provided guidance to
FHA approved lenders
to meet requirements
related to potable and
safe water while
continuing to lend to
prospective
homeowners in Flint.

Submitted a proposed rule to OMB amending HUD's Lead-Based Paint and Poisoning Prevention regulations to provide greater protection for children residing in federally assisted housing by adopting CDC's definition of elevated blood levels and establishing more comprehensive testing and evaluation procedures.

Provided an information package to HUD partners about expanded services and safe drinking water to distribute to all residents. The materials were available in multiple languages.

White House Strong Cities Strong Communities (SC2)

HUD leads 10 Federal Agencies working closely with City leadership on longer term economic development solutions, brownfield remediation and blight elimination—designation extended through December 2016

The City was awarded a grant to participate in a “Municipal Health Data for American Cities” pilot program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to develop a first ever dashboard for essential health data at the City-level

White House Strong Cities Strong Communities (SC2)

The City received a HUD grant for Hardest Hit funds in May 2016 for \$13.9 million to demolish more than 1000 vacant homes in Flint and the surrounding community

Work continues with the Flint Housing Commission and the City under the Choice Neighborhoods Planning grant to solidify plans for the redevelopment of the Atherton East neighborhood



HUD participated in the White House Summer Opportunity Project assigning a Summer Ambassador to Flint to assist in increasing youth employment. With local partners a program was designed and funding secured, resulting in **44 paid summer jobs** with USDA and the Flint Housing Commission for youth 16-21.

Next Steps...

While this is a limited description of the great work accomplished in Flint by the HUD team from March 2016 – August 2016, HUD's work in Flint will continue with a commitment to participate with the Unified Coordinating Group (UCG) and the White House National Securities Council to coordinate, collaborate and implement initiatives to complete the emergency response to the water crisis and address the long term economic and community recovery initiatives.



Thanks for Supporting Flint Initiatives!



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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Mikki Wade – Singer and Composer of
“Thank You.”

Flint Housing Commission Site Manager

